

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 27, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 2-7 are pending in this application. Claims 2-5 are amended. No new matter is presented. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 2-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) and claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) (two separate rejections). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request the favorable consideration of claims 2-7.

35 U.S.C §112

Claims 2-5 were rejected 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 2-5 are amended to more clearly and distinctly recite the features of the claimed invention. The amendments are merely cosmetic in nature and do not affect the scope of the invention. No new matter is presented. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

35 U.S.C . §102(b)

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nishida (U.S. Patent No. 5,210,566). In making this rejection, the Office Action asserts that Nishida teaches each and every element recited in claim 7. Applicants respectfully disagree and request reconsideration of this rejection..

Claim 7 recites a camera apparatus comprising an imaging device, a means for detecting the movement of an object on the basis of an output of the imaging device,

exposure determination means for determining the exposure, and exposure correction means for making exposure correction to the exposure determined by the exposure determination means on the basis of the detected movement of the object. The movement of the object is detected by motion vectors corresponding to a plurality of detecting areas set in an imaging area of the imaging device.

Nishida detects the motion of a main object by the motion vector detecting circuit 108 and moves the photometric area following the movement of the main object by the photometric area controlling circuit. The motion vector detecting circuit divides an input image into a predetermined number of blocks, which are then measured for level signal differences between the sample blocks and the subject block. Furthermore, Nishida detects the motion of the main object by the motion vector detecting circuit and only moves the photometric area following the movement of the main object by the photometric area controlling circuit.

In contrast, the claimed invention corrects the shutter speed and the diaphragm by taking the maximum value of the detected motion vectors as the amount of movement. Thus, Nishida fails to teach or suggest a means for detecting the movement of an object on the basis of an output of the imaging device wherein the movement of the object is detected by motion vectors corresponding to a plurality of detecting areas set in an imaging area of the imaging device. In other words, Nishida only detects the movement of one object, whereas the claimed invention detects a plurality of motion vectors corresponding to a plurality of detecting areas and then calculates the maximum value of the plurality of motion vectors as the amount of movement. Thus, Nishida fails to teach and/or suggest the movement of the object being detected by a plurality of motion vectors corresponding

to a plurality of detecting areas set in an imaging area of the imaging device. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishida in view of Kinjo (U.S. Patent No. 5,289,227). The Office Action indicates that Nishida discloses all the features recited in claims 2-5 except the exposure control circuit 34 that controls the shutter driver, the shutter mechanism, the diaphragm and the flash devices. The Office Action utilizes Kinjo to teach and/or suggest this feature. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2-5.

Kinjo discloses a method of automatically controlling taking exposure and focusing a camera and a method of controlling printed exposure. It should be noted that claims 2-5 are dependent upon independent claim 7. Thus, for at least the reasons mentioned above, it is submitted that claims 2-5 recite subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references.

Nishida, as admitted in the Office Action, fails to teach and/or suggest all the features in claims 2-5, and furthermore, Kinjo fails to cure the deficiencies of Nishida. As mentioned above, Nishida does not teach and/or suggest a means for detecting the movement of an object on the basis of an output of the imaging device wherein the movement of the object is detected by motion vectors corresponding to a plurality of detecting areas set in an imaging area of the imaging device. Kinjo does not cure this deficiency. As a result, it is submitted that the combination of the cited references fail to

teach and/or suggest the features recited in claims 2-5. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishida in view of Nakano (U.S. Patent No. 5,043,816). The Office Action takes the position that the combination of Nishida and Nakano teach and/or suggest all the features recited in claim 6. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nakano is directed to a electronic still camera having a photographing timing control. Nakano discloses a camera having a control means, a temporary storage means, storage means, and a selecting means. The photographing control detects a shutter stand-by condition so as to photograph a plurality of images at a predetermined time interval, and detects a shutter operation in order to photograph a single image.

It is submitted that the combination of Nishida and Nakano fail to teach and/or suggest all the features recited in claim 6. Claim 6 is dependent upon claim 7. Therefore, for at least the reasons mentioned above, the combination of the cited references fail to teach or suggest all features recited in claim 6. Specifically, the combination of the cited references fail to at least teach and/or suggest a means for detecting the movement of an object on the basis of an output of the imaging device wherein the movement of the object is detected by motion vectors corresponding to a plurality of detecting areas set in an imaging area of the imaging device. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Conclusion

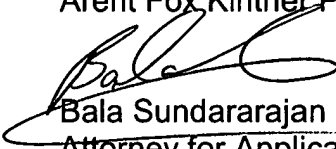
Applicants' remarks have overcome the objections and rejections set forth in the

Office Action dated August 27, 2003. Claims 2-5 are amended to more clearly and distinctly recite the features of the claimed invention, thus overcoming the rejection of claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants' remarks have distinguished claim 7 from Nishida and thus overcome the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants' remarks have also distinguished claims 2-5 from the combination of Nishida and Kinjo and thus overcome the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claim 6 is also distinguished from the cited from reference, thereby overcome the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Accordingly, claims 2-7 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 2-7.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,
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